STEPS TAKEN TO RECOVER THE AMOUNT FROM STATE ELECTRICITY BOARDS/ POWER HOUSES

The steps taken by the Railways to recover the outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards/ Power Houses include:

1. Implementation of various schemes of "Prepayment of Freight" for carriage of Coal to Power Houses w.e.f. 01.10.1996.
2. State Electricity Boards and Power Houses which fail to observe the conditions of "Prepayment of Freight" as also payment of current freight are closely monitored by the Zonal Railways and regular meetings are held with senior officials including Chairmen of State Electricity Boards/Power Houses.
3. Pursuant to Government's decision on 7.02.1997 that the outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards/Power Houses as on 31.12.1996 would be adjusted from the Central Plan Assistance of the State Governments subject to certain limits, an amount of Rs. 144.90 crore has been received till date.
4. Adjustment of outstanding dues against traction bills of some of the State Electricity Boards.
5. The Minister for Railways has written to the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and West Bengal urging early steps for clearance of the dues.

Lok Adalats for Women

*298. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of setting up of Lok Adalats for women to settle cases of matrimonial and domestic violence; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Government has introduced the Protection from Domestic Violence Bill, 2002 in Lok Sabha on 8th March, 2002 which, *inter-alia*, seeks to provide remedy under the civil law to women who are victims of domestic violence. The National Legal

Services Authority (NALSA) has informed that at present, no specific proposal is under its consideration to set up Lok Adalats for women to settle cases of matrimonial and domestic violence. The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, under which Lok Adalats are organised, is administered at the Central level by the NALSA.

MoU for rail infrastructure development

*299. DR. (MS.) P. SELVIE DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) which States have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Railways to form Rail Infrastructure Development Company, to undertake rail infrastructure development in their respective States; and

(b) the details of major projects taken up by respective Rail Infrastructure Development Company, so far?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The States of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have signed MoUs with the Ministry of Railways to form Rail Infrastructure Development Companies.

(b) Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation, a Joint Venture between the Ministry of Railways and the Government of Maharashtra, is udnertaking the following major projects in Phase I for capacity augmentation and systems improvement of the suburban rail transportation system in Mumbai area.

(i) 5th line between Santacruz—Borivali Western Railway.

(ii) Kurla—Thane—Additional pair of lines.

(iii) Optimisation of Central Railway suburban infrastructure.

(iv) Optimisation of Western Railway suburban infrastructure.

(v) Optimisation of Harabour line.

(vi) Borivali—Bhayandar Quadrupling.

(vii) Bhayandar—Virar Quadrupling.

(viii) DC to AC Conversion of Traction Power Supply.

(ix) Conversion of Electric Multiple Units (EMU) to AC-DC system.

The other two Joint Venture companies with Governments of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are yet to become operational.